

House Resolution No. 876

Whereas, Saint Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, Missouri, had its humble start with the November 18, 1960, purchase of slightly more than ten acres of land on which sat a one and one-half story stone house that would later become the first parish house and religious education center; and

Whereas, on August 1, 1965, Saint Mark's Parish was canonically established with a membership of 250 families and Father John P. Coleman was appointed the first pastor; and

Whereas, with Mass celebrated at several temporary locations, construction began in 1967 on a permanent sanctuary which was completed in 1968 and was dedicated on April 13, 1969, alongside the current rectory; and

Whereas, down through the years Saint Mark's Parish has been blessed with a series of pastors, growth in the number of parishioners, and a flexible set of programs designed to meet the needs of the church and the community; and

Whereas, Saint Mark's Parish has enlarged and renovated its physical structure; added parking lots; created a new sacristy, nursery, cry room/chapel, and office; and constructed new basement space in order to keep up with changing expectations for how the church should be used; and

Whereas, after an August 1999 decision by parishioners to build a new worship facility, a Facilities Master Plan was developed and approved, the Building With God Capital Campaign was initiated, Pledges totally \$3.75 million were given, and a Groundbreaking for the new church was held with Bishop Raymond Boland on July 21, 2002; and

Whereas, parishioners of Saint Mark's Parish celebrated the Steeple Raising on May 26, 2003, and then had the opportunity to see the inside of the new church on October 25 and October 26, 2003, when they were able to walk down the colonnade and to view the special engraved bricks in anticipation of a long-awaited Church Dedication:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the stellar, ongoing history of Saint Mark's Catholic Church and to convey to all of its spiritual leaders and each of its parishioners this legislative body's heartiest congratulations upon the completion of an impressive new church edifice and our best wishes for a highly successful building dedication on March 7, 2004; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Saint Mark's Catholic Church of Independence, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Paul LeVota
District No. 52

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 876, adopted March 3, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker